

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 CG-00

COA-02 DLOS-06 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /113 W
----- 117021

R 100541Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8724

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA POUCH

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT POUCH

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BEIRUT FOR RCAA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN BA KU MU QA SA TC

SUBJ: CIVAIR: SHIPPING: ARABIAN GULF TRANSPORTATION MEETING IN
KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 4514

1. TRANSPORTATION AND AVIATION OFFICIALS FROM KUWAIT, BAHRAIN,
QATAR, UAE, OMAN AND SAUDI ARABIA MET AT KUWAIT FEB 5TH TO
DISCUSS FORMING UNITED GULF/AIRLINE AND A GULF SHIPPING
COMPANY. MEETING FORMED THREE COMMITTEES CONDUCT FURTHER STUDIES
AS FOLLOWS:

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A. COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THREE ARAB AIRLINES OF AREA (SAUDIA,

KUWAIT AIR, GULF AIR) TO STUDY FUTURE OF AIR TRANSPORT IN LIGHT
CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES,

B. COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORS STUDY
PROPOSAL PUT BY KUWAIT FORM COMBINED AIR CARGO CARRIER,
MG MEET IN BAHRAIN, MARCH 17.

C. COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MARINE TRANSPORT EXPERTS STUDY CREATION
COMBINED MARITIME SHIPPING COMPANY, TO MEET IN KUWAIT, MARCH
17.

2. AFTER ABOVE MEETINGS, MINISTERS TRANSPORTATION AND COMM-
UNICATIONS WILL MEET TO RATIFY REPORTS IN SAUDI ARABIA NO LATER
THAN FIRST HALF MAY.

3. COMMENT: REFTEL REPORTED KAC PUSHING ESTABLISHMENT GULF
REGIONAL AIR CARGO CARRIER. WHILE IN BAHRAIN RECENTLY, REGIONAL
ECONOMIC OFFICER WAS TOLD BY GULF AIR MANAGING DIRECTOR THAT
IDEA WAS INDEED PROGRESSING, IMPELLED LARGELY BY KUWAIT'S
(AND OTHER GULF STATES') JEALOUSY OVER PREEMPTIVE POSITION BEING
GAINED BY TMA. SAID THAT NEW AIRLINE, IF FORMED, PROBABLY WOULD
BE JOINTLY OWNED BY THE SIX STATES INVOLVED, AND WOULD BE
CONSTITUTED AS INDEPENDENT ENTITY, BUT THE THREE EXISTING AIRLINES
WOULD IN SOME WAY BE OPERATIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR GOVERNMENTS
(PRESUMABLY THROUGH SYSTEM OF JOINT DIRECTORSHIPS). SAID THEY
WERE VERY INTERESTED IN SAS MODEL AND WERE ENTERTAINING IDEA
OF EVENTUALLY EXPANDING TO PASSENGER OPERATIONS AND, PERHAPS,
APPLYING FOR RIGHTS TO US USING COMBINED TRAFFIC AS JUSTIFICATION.
WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDIS DO NOT SHARE THESE VISIONS
IMPLYING AS THEY DO A DIMINUTION RATHER THAN EXPANSION ROLE
NATIONAL CARRIER.

4. WHILE IT TOO EARLY SEE AIRCRAFT PURCHASE POSSIBILITIES
THIS VENTURE, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT POSSIBLE INITIAL EQUIPMENT
WOULD BE MODIFIED, DISCARDED KAC 707'S, EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW
THIS ASPECT AND REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
STOLTZFUS

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